

S M -289
RICHARD MEDLEY HOUSE
Beachville
Private

circa 1890

Though modernization has altered the appearance of this frame house, its original design is still apparent. With a two-story, A-roof principal block and a 1 1/2-story kitchen attached to a gable end, its original size and design are identical to those of most other houses of the black watermen/landowning farmers who settled in the area known as Gum Landing in Beachville near the turn of the 20th century. This house was probably built circa 1890 on the land Richard Medley purchased at that time. He was the first Negro known to have bought and cleared land in Gum Landing, and after him came the Carrolls, Butlers, Coles, Smallwoods and other black families.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE RICHARD MEDLEY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Inigoes Rd. south side of St. Inigoes Rd.,
200 yards west of Jct. Grayson Rd. and St. Inigoes Rd

CITY, TOWN

St. Inigoes

☒ VICINITY OF Beachville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☒ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Earl Welch

Telephone #: 872-5972

STREET & NUMBER

Star Route

CITY, TOWN

St. Inigoes

☒ VICINITY OF

20684 STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: J.F.F. 11
Folio #: 502

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to George S. Carroll (STMA-283), this one and a half story, balloon frame house was originally built and designed in similar fashion to the other houses of black farmers/watermen in Beachville. It consisted of a principal block of three bays arranged with bilateral symmetry, with a one story kitchen attached to the west gable end. The house faces north, towards St. Inigoes Rd. A short distance behind it is Gum Landing, where the boats of the Beachville watermen were harbored. See aerial photographs of this community ^(in slide collection, STMA-283) taken in the 1950's by the U.S. Navy.

In recent years, a small screen porch has been added along the facade of the principal block, and the kitchen raised almost a half story. A story and a half has been added to the east side of the rear length, and later a one story room was joined to the L and back length of the original house, filling in the L and making a rectangle. Thus, the amount of living space has been doubled in recent years, separating household activities and creating more privacy.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1890's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Medley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to George S. Carroll, this house was the home of Richard Medley, one of the most prominent of the black farmers/watermen in Beachville. Land records (Deed, J.F.F. 11/502) show that he purchased this property in 1890 from James A. Tennison, whose family had been antebellum planters. This is the earliest recorded deed of the black families who founded this community at Beachville. He was, therefore, probably one of the first, if not the first, of the landowning families to clear this land and to develop it into farmland. Medley was also one of the largest landowners in the community of small farmers, deeds showing that he purchased three separate small tracts totalling 16½ acres in the 1890's and in the first quarter of the 20th century he added to this. He left parcels of his holdings to his daughter, Henrietta Medley Shurbrooks and his sons: Prophet, Charles, and John. The houses of the last two are still standing and have been recorded as part of this survey.

According to George S. Carroll, Richard Medley was a carpenter and built this house. He passed on these skills to his sons, and they in turn built their houses, the only ones in the Community to do so.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Md.

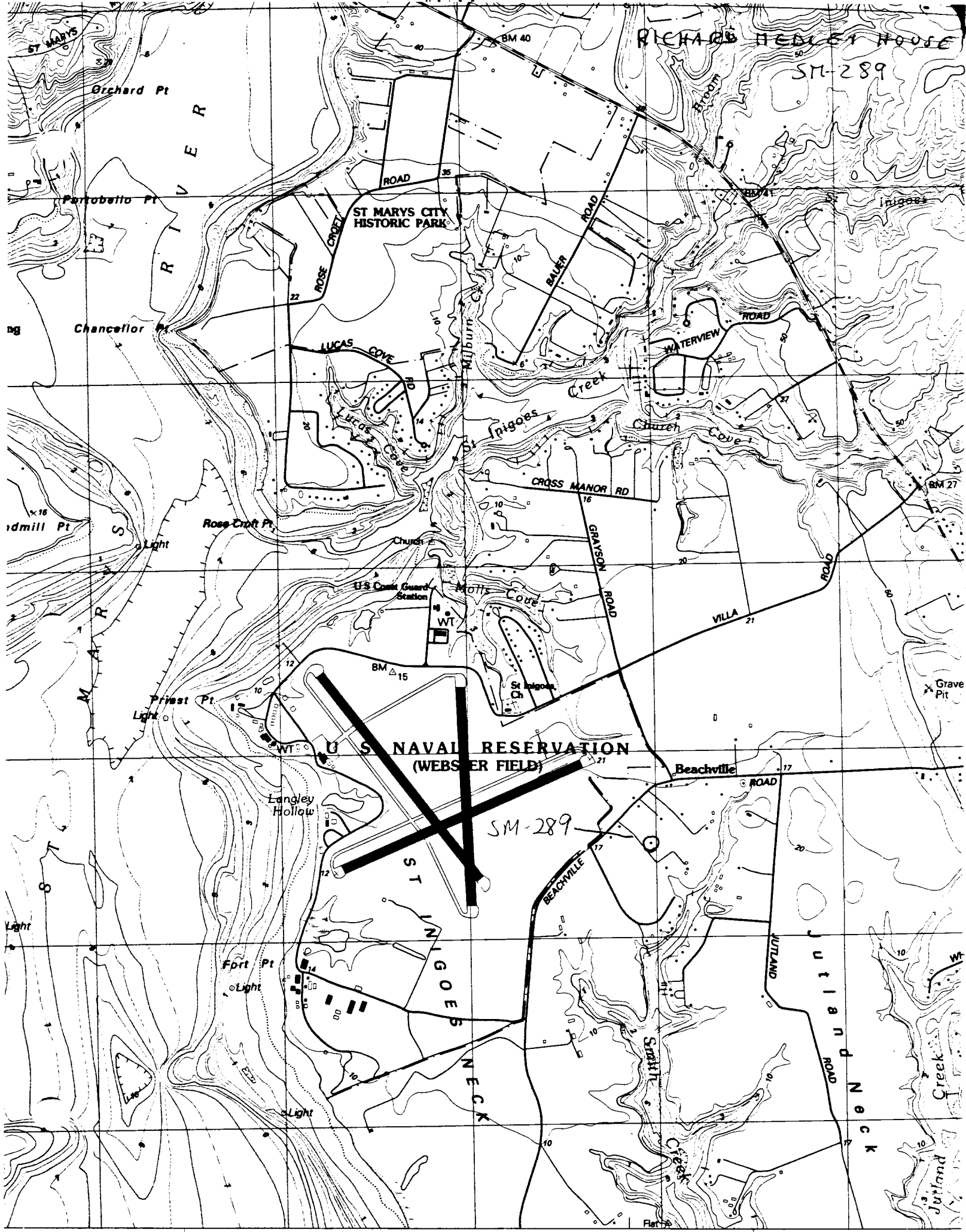
STATE

21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA; 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



RICHARD HEDLEY HOUSE
SM-289

ST MARYS CITY
HISTORIC PARK

U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION
(WEBSTER FIELD)

SM-289

373

(ST. GEORGE ISLAND)
5760 III SW

375

ST. MARY'S CITY QUADRANGLE

25'

376

177000E



Richard Medley House
STMA 289

St. Inigoes - Beachville
North facade
GWM - 04/77



500 628

Richard Medley House

STMA 289

St. Inigoes, Beachville

South facade

GWM 4/77



15-1-1

Richard Medley House
STMA 289
St. Inigoes, Beachville
East View
GWM — 4/77